



DREW

Korn Gallery
Dorothy Young Center for the Arts
Drew University
Madison, NJ 07940

Return Service Requested

Martha Clippinger

gabi ganai

curated by Rita Keane

February 6 - March 6, 2015

Opening Reception:
February 6, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Artist Talk: February 6, 5PM

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 12:30-4PM

Selected weekends and by appointment

For more information please call 973.408.3758

www.drew.edu/korngallery

pinwheel, 2013

acrylic and fabric on wood, 11 x 11 x 1"

Korn show brings pops of color to Forest

Artist works with vibrant hues and found materials

TAYLOR TRACY
Student Life and Arts Editor

Come to the Korn Gallery to see sculptures perched on windowsills and hidden in corners. These pieces are in the newest show, “gabi ganai,” which includes several vibrantly colored sculptures by artist Martha Clippinger, who worked at Drew as the coordinator for the New York Semester on Contemporary Art in the art history department for six years through last year. She returns to the Forest for the show, which opened today.

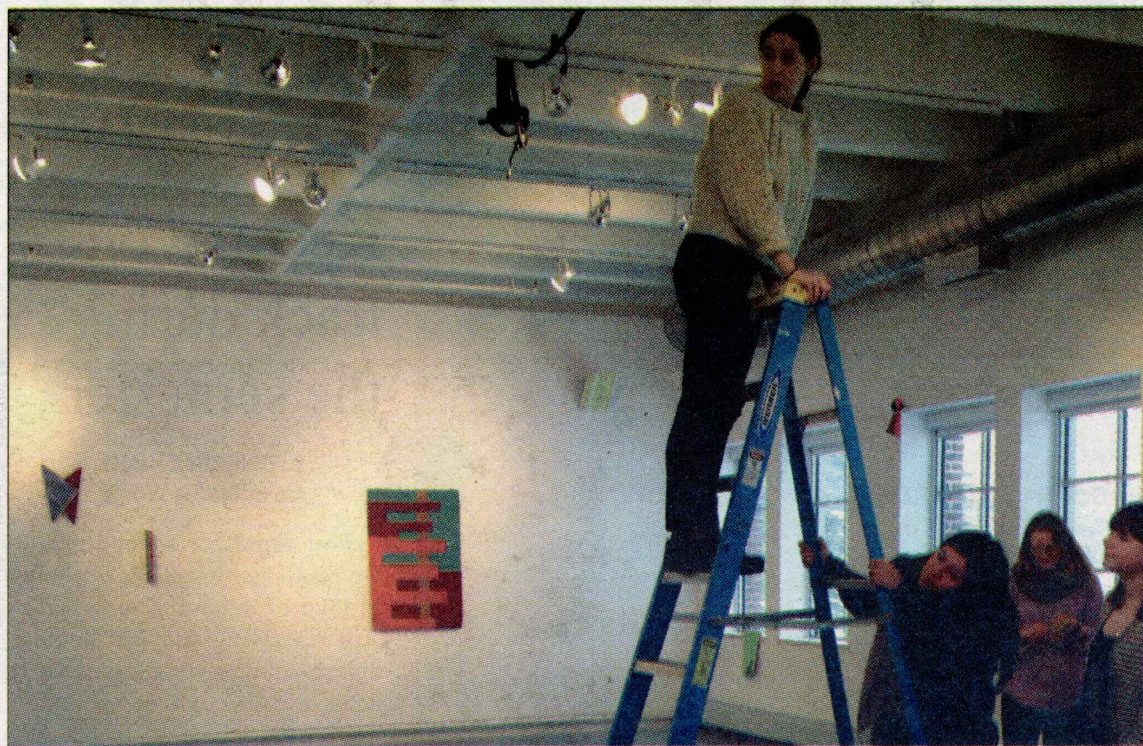
Katie Overgaard (C’10), who wrote the catalogue essay for Clippinger’s exhibit, first met Clippinger as a student during the New York Semester on Contemporary Art. About what she hopes viewers will receive from looking at the work, Overgaard said, “I believe the most gratifying experience for a viewer is to feel a link between oneself and the

work. This link may manifest as a feeling of admiration or nostalgic association or critical thought or inspiration.”

Discussing the relationship between viewer and art in the show, Assistant Professor of Art History Marguerite Keane said, “I appreciated that each work of art changed as you moved toward and around it.” She added, “An aesthetic process that relates to the title of this show at Drew is gabi ganai, the Zapotec term for ‘around’.”

Adding to this dynamic is the unconventional style of the installation, where works are placed not uniformly at eye level, but dispersed throughout the space. Clippinger said, “One thing I’m interested in is playing with the architecture of the space itself. Some pieces are up high, some are in corners and some are in windows.”

Many of the works in the show are sculptures made out of wood, rubber and other found objects.



TAYLOR TRACY/ STUDENT LIFE AND ARTS EDITOR

Student workers help artist Martha Clippinger install the new exhibit “gabi ganai” in the Korn Gallery. The sculptures are hung all over the gallery, from near the floor to in the windows.

Discussing where she finds her materials, Clippinger said, “I find them through friends who work in woodshops. There’s also this place called the Scrap Exchange, which has been a real godsend.”

She added, “I pick things up on the street sometimes. I wouldn’t pick things up in New York because I was afraid of bedbugs, but I’m not as worried in North Carolina.”

Overgaard noted the energy in Clippinger’s work. She said, “I find the spirit of the work to be very playful but powerful.”

Keane appreciates the color and texture in Clippinger’s work. She said, “Her paintings are saturated with color, which is what first attracted me to them, but as you approach them you discover that they are as interesting for their texture.”

Clippinger spent much of the past year in Mexico with a Fulbright fellowship. Regarding this recent trip, she said, “While I was there I collaborated with

some weavers on wool rugs.” She added, “I’ve been interested in the intersection between art and craft. Working with the weavers was connecting my practice with their craft tradition.”

Some of these rugs are displayed in the show. About the difference between her sculptures made from wood and the rugs, she said, “There are a lot more restrictions. I’m working with a rectangular format.” She added, “While the weavers could work with curves and diagonal lines, I set up rules to only work in horizontal and vertical lines.”

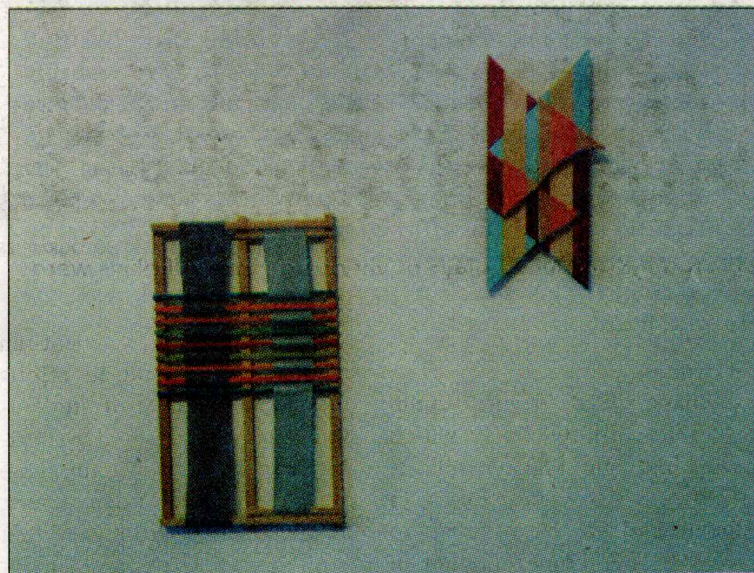
Addressing the use of color in her sculpture, Clippinger said, “My use of color is mostly intuitive, but Mexico has had an effect in terms of the saturated color. There’s a lot of vernacular painting on the streets and these chance color combinations between neighbors.” She added, “I’m interested in working with tertiary colors and pairing more

earth tones with bright sets of neons or manufactured colors.”

The work displayed in “gabi ganai” isn’t just for those who study or appreciate art. Keane said, “I think Clippinger’s work is accessible to students because it is visually quite beautiful and engaging, and it rewards close study, even if you do not have a background in art or art history.”

Keane hopes students will be able to take something away from the show. She said, “I hope that students will have a sharper, richer and more appreciative eye for the colors, patterns and textures of their own environments after they see the show.”

“Gabi Ganai” is on display until Mar. 6. The Korn Gallery is in the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts and is open 12:30-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Clippinger will be giving an artist talk in the gallery today at 5 p.m. followed by a reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m.



TAYLOR TRACY/ STUDENT LIFE AND ARTS EDITOR

Two of Clippinger’s works in the exhibit. Her sculptures are made of found materials and feature bright tones.